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L'UMILE PIANTA.



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# L' UMILE PIANTA.

FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAKE.

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## ART TRAINING IN THE NURSERY.

BY "AUNT MAI."

(Concluded.)

WE owe much to Millais, Caldicott, Kate Greenaway, Walter Crane and other labourers in this field. Few things do more to foster art in the nursery than illustrations in books, provided that these are few and well chosen. The idiosyncrasy in all children that they prefer the small and minute, generally leads them to love their pictures in books even more than those on the walls. The reader is recommended to look at Walter Crane's *Fight between the Red Rose and the White Lily*, which is full of beautiful lines and grace, and a book, *Over the Hills*, illustrated by Harriett Bennett, which Mr. Collingwood, the Oxford Extension Lecturer, has recommended the Members of the Fesole Club to copy. I regret that every year there are published picture books for children which leave nothing more to desire from an artist's point of view; but when the literary critic turns to the letterpress it is found sadly wanting. I know many parents who will not permit these to enter the nursery, believing that if the taste is lowered by repetition of the stories told, it must inevitably lead to forming a voracious reader of third-rate three-volumed novels in later years. Scarcely any writer for children of the present day can forget the grown-up person, or remember what they really felt themselves when they were little. One writer of children's songs, however, is a notable exception—I refer to Robert Louis Stevenson. He remembers exactly what every one of us thought and did when we were in the nursery. If you try to throw your memory back to the days